

Medical Reserve Corps
Office of the Surgeon General
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



www.medicalreservecorps.gov

Recognition Received

The White House included the MRC in its Hurricane Katrina after action report, and the work of MRC volunteers was specifically highlighted in the areas where the response went well.
(<http://www.whitehouse.gov/reports/katrina-lessons-learned/index.html>)

In a Press Briefing by Homeland Security Advisor Fran Townsend (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/05/20060503-6.html>) about pandemic influenza planning held at the White House on May 3, 2006, the MRC was singled out for its performance and results! Midway through (at paragraph 16), Ms. Townsend stated the following:

"The administration takes this threat seriously... we have already made -- seen remarkable performance and results despite laying out very aggressive measures for action."

"For instance, one of the actions in the plan is to expand the Medical Reserve Corps, a community-based program of volunteer health and medical providers, by 20 percent. That meant from 350 to 420 chapters in 2006. That objective was placed in the draft plan early in 2006, and the Medical Reserve Corps has already achieved it."

Mitretek Systems and the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard's prestigious JFK School, have selected the Medical Reserve Corps program as one of the five finalists for the prestigious 2006 Mitretek Innovations Award in Homeland Security. This Award seeks to identify, explore, and highlight creative and effective government and public-private partnership solutions—and the leaders behind them—to the nation's homeland security concerns. The criteria for this award assume that the "best practices" to be adopted in the future are emerging from practitioners operating in the field today.

Non-governmental and professional groups are also recognizing the value of the MRC. For example, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, the premier group which advises hospitals and health systems on the best ways to operate, cites the MRC in its standards as a local group to partner with to optimize emergency planning and medical volunteer integration.

